

WE CLAIM:

1. An apparatus for molding a masonry block, comprising:

a mold comprising a plurality of walls defining at least one mold cavity adapted to receive

5 block-forming material, the walls configured to retain block-forming material in the mold cavity, the mold defining an opening through which a formed, uncured block may be removed from the mold cavity; and

10 at least one said wall including a major surface having a plurality of tapered projections extending into the mold cavity so as to contact an adjacent surface of the uncured block in the mold cavity, whereby when the uncured block is removed from the mold cavity, the projections texture the adjacent surface of the uncured block.

15 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the projections are generally frusto-pyramidal in shape.

20 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the projections are generally pyramidal in shape.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the projections are provided substantially throughout said major surface.

25 5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one of said walls comprises a separating wall separating the mold into first and second mold cavities for forming first and second blocks, respectively, the separating wall having first and second major surfaces, at least the first major surface having a plurality of projections extending into the first mold cavity for texturing a surface of the first block.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the second major surface has a plurality of projections extending into the second mold cavity for texturing a surface of the second block.

30 7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least two of said walls include major surfaces, each having a plurality of projections extending into the mold cavity for texturing at least two surfaces of the block as the block is removed from the mold.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the major surface defines top and bottom limits of the mold cavity and wherein at least some of the projections are provided on the major surface intermediate said top and bottom limits of the mold.

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9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said at least one wall is generally vertical and wherein each projection has two generally upwardly facing side surfaces and two generally downwardly facing side surfaces.

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10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the two generally upwardly facing side surfaces of each projection have slopes as measured from the vertical that are less than the slopes of the two generally downwardly facing side surfaces.

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11. An apparatus for molding a masonry block, comprising:

a mold including an interior surface defining at least one mold cavity having opposite end limits and an end opening, the mold cavity being adapted to receive block-forming material to form an uncured block, and allow removal of such block from the mold cavity through the end opening, the interior surface being impervious to block-forming material; and

20 the interior surface including rows of projections between the opposite end limits for contacting a block in the mold, the projections being positioned side-by-side in each row, whereby when the block is removed from the mold cavity, the projections create a roughened texture on the surface of the block.

25 12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the mold comprises a plurality of walls defining the mold cavity.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the walls define multiple mold cavities.

30 14. The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising a mold insert coupled to a wall of the mold, and wherein the plurality of projections are provided on the mold insert and extend into the mold cavity.

15. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the plurality of projections are provided on one of said walls.

16. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the walls include a separating member dividing 5 the mold cavity into multiple mold cavities, and wherein the plurality of projections are provided on the separating member and extend into at least one of the multiple mold cavities.

17. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the projections are tapered.

10 18. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the rows of projections extend diagonally across the interior surface of the mold cavity.

15 19. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the projections are uniformly distributed on the interior surface.

20. An apparatus for molding masonry blocks, comprising:

a mold comprising first and second mold cavities and a separating member separating the first and second mold cavities and being generally impervious to block-forming material, the mold having a top and a bottom, the first and second mold cavities being adapted to receive block-forming material 20 for forming first and second blocks, respectively, and the separating member having first and second major surfaces, the first major surface forming an interior surface of the first mold cavity and the second major surface forming an interior surface of the second mold cavity; and

25 a plurality of inwardly extending block-texturing members located along the first and second major surfaces of the separating member between the top and bottom of the mold, the block-texturing members being configured to produce a roughened texture on adjacent surfaces of the first and second blocks as they are removed from their respective mold cavities.

30 21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the block-texturing members are positioned side-by-side in rows of block-texturing members along the first and second major surfaces of the separating member.

22. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the block-texturing members are generally frusto-pyramidal in shape.

23. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the block-texturing members are generally 5 pyramidal in shape.

24. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the block-texturing members are positioned to scrape the adjacent surfaces of the first and second blocks as the blocks are removed from their respective mold cavities.

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25. An apparatus for molding masonry blocks, comprising:
a mold comprising a plurality of walls forming first and second mold cavities and said side walls including a separating member separating the first and second mold cavities, the first and second mold cavities being adapted to receive block-forming material for forming first and second blocks, respectively, and the separating member having first and second major surfaces, the first major surface forming an interior surface of the first mold cavity and the second major surface forming an interior surface of the second mold cavity;

a plurality of projections disposed on at least one of said walls of the mold and extending into the first mold cavity;

20 a plurality of projections disposed on at least one of said walls of the mold and extending into the second mold cavity; and

a plurality of projections disposed on at least one of said first and second major surfaces of the separating member and extending into the adjacent mold;

25 whereby when the first and second blocks are removed from the mold, the projections produce at least two roughened surfaces on one of said first and second blocks and at least one roughened surface on the other of said first and second blocks.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein each projection has two generally upwardly facing side surfaces and two generally downwardly facing side surfaces.

27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the two generally upwardly facing side surfaces of each projection have slopes that are less than the slopes of the two generally downwardly facing side surfaces.

5 28. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein a plurality of projections are disposed on both the first and second major surfaces of the separating member.

10 29. A wall for use in a mold for molding a masonry block, comprising:
a body having first and second major surfaces, at least one of the first and second major surfaces having a plurality of projections extending outwardly therefrom, the projections tapering as they extend away from the body.

15 30. The wall of claim 29, wherein the projections are frusto-pyramidal in shape.

31. The wall of claim 29, wherein the projections are pyramidal in shape.

32. The wall of claim 29, wherein both the first and second major surfaces has a plurality of projections extending therefrom.

20 33. The wall of claim 29, wherein each projection has a first side surface and a second side surface, the first side surface having a slope that is greater than the slope of the second side surface.

25 34. The wall of claim 29, wherein the body and the projections are of a unitary construction.

35. The wall of claim 29, wherein the projections are removable from the body.

30 36. A wall for use in a mold for molding a masonry block, comprising:
a body having first and second major surfaces; and
a plurality of projections extending outwardly from the first and second major surfaces.

37. The wall of claim 36, wherein the wall is incorporated into a mold, the wall separating the mold into first and second mold cavities.

38. The wall of claim 36, wherein the projections are tapered.

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39. The wall of claim 36, wherein each projection has one side surface with a slope that is greater than that of another side surface.

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40. A method for making a masonry block having a roughened surface, the method comprising:

introducing block-forming material into a mold cavity, the mold cavity formed by mold walls all of which are configured to retain block-forming material in the mold cavity, at least one mold wall having plural, tapered projections extending into the mold cavity and located between the top and bottom of the mold cavity;

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forming an uncured block in the mold cavity; and

moving the mold cavity relative to the uncured block so that the projections produce a roughened texture on a surface of the uncured block.

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41. The method of claim 40, wherein moving the mold cavity relative to the uncured block comprises removing the uncured block through an opening in the mold.

42. The method of claim 41, wherein the projections are configured to avoid retaining block-forming material as the uncured block is removed from the mold.

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43. The method of claim 40, wherein the projections are of uniform configuration and are dispersed uniformly throughout the area of the wall.

44. A masonry block having at least one roughened surface, the roughened surface being formed by a method comprising:

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introducing block-forming material into a mold cavity to form an uncured block, the mold cavity formed from a plurality of mold walls configured to retain block-forming material in the mold

cavity, at least one of said mold walls having plural inwardly extending, tapered projections located between the top and bottom of said wall; and

moving the mold relative to the uncured block so that the projections produce a roughened surface on the block.

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45. The block of claim 44, wherein the act of moving the mold relative to the uncured block comprises removing the uncured block through an opening in the mold cavity.

10 46. The block of claim 44, wherein a plurality of the mold walls have plural inwardly extending projections located between the top and bottom of the mold cavity so that a plurality of roughened surfaces are formed on the block.

15 47. The block of claim 44, wherein the projections contact an adjacent side surface of the uncured block in the mold cavity.

20 48. A masonry block having at least one roughened surface, the roughened surface being formed by a method comprising:

25 introducing block-forming material into a mold to form an uncured block, the mold comprising a plurality of mold walls being generally impervious to block-forming material, at least one of said mold walls having plural projections extending into the mold cavity so as to contact an adjacent side surface of the uncured block in the mold cavity, the projections having respective bases at said mold wall, at least some of the projections being positioned with their respective bases in contacting relationship with each other; and

stripping the uncured block from the mold cavity so that the projections create a roughened surface on the block.

30 49. The block of claim 48, wherein the method further comprises densifying the block-forming material in the mold cavity prior to stripping the uncured block from the mold cavity.

50. The block of claim 48, wherein the projections are tapered.

51. A method of providing a roughened surface on a retaining wall block comprising:

providing a mold having walls defining a mold cavity and opposite end openings;

providing at least one of the walls with tapered projections extending into the cavity and distributed throughout at least a major surface area of the at least one wall;

filling the mold cavity with block-forming material to form an uncured block in the cavity;

5 and

stripping the uncured block from the mold by moving the block relative to the walls through one of the opposite end openings.